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"Cross of Gold and Crown of Thorns"-How a Wonderful Speech Won a Presidential Nomination ...



His Renominanation In 1900. The Dominant Spirit of the Democracy For Twelve Years. Bryan In 1908

days, while it was an ordinary thing

for him to address twenty crowds at

twenty different towns in twenty hours. The candidate showed a phy-

sique and a voice that stood the tre-

mendous strain with marvelous endur

ance. As the campaign progressed and

the fame of Bryan spread people got

to sitting up all night and traveling

Bryan's first appearance in the east

was on the 12th of August, when he

delivered his speech of acceptance of

the nomination. Madison Square Gar-

mass of men and women, though it

was one of the hottest days ever known

in New York and a dozen persons had

died from sunstroke during the day.

Bryan read that speech from manus

script, a disappointing thing, for it de-

tracted greatly from his eloquence. But the candidate was well aware that

great issues hinged upon his utterances

on that important occasion, and he did

not care to trust bimself to the un-

down to defeat at the November elec-

tion, though he had been nominated

Thomas E. Watson of Georgia as the vice presidential candidate on that

ticket. McKinley and Hobert went

into office, and there were those who

predicted that Bryan was forever elim-

Four years later at the Democratic

national convention in Kansas City

Mr. Bryan was renominated by accla-

mation. There was absolutely no other

candidate suggested for the nomina

tion. For vice president Adial E. Ste

venson of Bloomington, Ill., who had

been vice president during Cleveland's

second term, was named. The war

with Spain and our consequent acquisi

tion of the Philippine Islands had

brought new issues into policies, but

the silver plank was reinscried into

the Democratic platform, Mr Br an

declining to stand for the nomination

inated from the Democracy.

by the Populist party, with

With Arthur Sewall of Maine, the

curbed enthusiasm of the moment.

was packed with a suffocating

many miles just to hear the phenome-

non speak.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

THEN the Democratic national convention met at Chicago ir 1896 one of the delegates from Nebraska was William Jennings Bryan, a young man of thirty-six, a private citizen of the city of His prior political career comprised two terms in congress. He had been his party nominee for a United States senatorship in a Republicar

legislature. The national Democracy had broken away from Grover Cleveland, whom it had elected president twice and who was then in office. The split was or the money question. Cleveland had called a special session of congress to repeal the silver bullion purchasing act. The mass of the party stood for the free coinage of silver, chiefly at the ratio of 16 to 1. The Cleveland wing stood for the single gold stand-



"You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross

ard. The mighty chasm widened at the convention. Congressman Richard P. Bland of Missouri, "Silver Dick," the old war horse of the free silver coinage movement, was the logical and apparently the inevitable candidate for the presidency. His nomination seemed to be a certainty until a thing happened hitherto unprecedented in Amer-

Bryan of Nebraska, known as "the silver tongued orator" and "the boy orator of the Platte," mounted the platform and delivered a brief but bold and masterful speech. His vibrant voice rang out over the heads of the 15,000 persons in the vast hall, pene trating with clarion intonation to the roar of a great political convention which the strongest of oratorical lungs as a rule, cannot quell entirely, was hushed into unbreathing awe. No such eloquence ever before had been heard in a national convention. The man and the occasion had met, and the man had mastered the occasion. The address was an impassioned appeal for bimetallism and an exalted glorifica tion of the new Democratic financial doctrine. When the orator closed with his epoch making metaphor of "the cross of gold and crown of thorns" the enthusiastic approbation of his sentiments and of the man himself was indicated by a whirlwind of applause beyond description.

And William Jennings Bryan was nominated for the presidency of the

United States.

Flashed to the remotest reaches of the nation, the news was the most sensational political titbit that ever took the wires. Bryan was but one year above the minimum age required by the constitution of the United States for a president. While some of his speeches in congress a few years be fore had given him a momentary reputation, he was practically unknown to the nation at large, and particularly so to the great eastern section of the country. Never before had a great party nominated for president a man living west of the Mississippi river. Never before had so young a man been nominated. Never before had an orator won the great prize by a single speech. Democrats, Republicans, Populists, everybody wondered how the newcomer would conduct himself in the campaign.

Presently the wonder turned to amazement. Young Mr. Bryan was a campaigner-there was no doubt as to that. He injected into American politics a presidential campaign such as the nation never knew before. Men called it a whirlwind campaign, and He was forty years of age and in the such it was. The whirlwind road was date up and down and across the land

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Again the great east lashed and smashed the western candidate with demon'ac denunciation, though that time there was a very large increase In personal respect for Mr. Bryan. H-

had proved himself to be by to the wild visionary, the apar man rev plutionist, the dangerous favatic, which the opposition in his own party had pictured bim as being in 1896, wher the Democracy split open and the less er section thereof nominated a "gold Democratic" ticket, with General John M. Palmer of Illinois and General Si mon B. Buckner of Kentucky as the standard bearers, thus contributing to Bryan's defeat in the first campaign In the campaign of 1900 the Demo cratic seceders simply voted the Me Kinley and Roosevelt Republican tick





et. A second time Bryan went down

to defeat, but gracefully and with good cheer.

vice presidential candidate, Bryan went He was at his home in Lincoln on election day, ate an early dinner, went upstairs at about 6 o'clock and slept soundly until 11, when he came down and discovered that he was badly beaten. He smiled to the assembled reporters, returned to his bed and slept soundly until morning. It was said by those present that he evinced not the slightest sign of disappointment.

Mr. Bryan did not seek the nomina tion in 1904. He was quite willing for the disaffected wing of the Democracy to name the ticket just to see if that element could do better than the other He attended the convention in St Louis as a delegate, made an amazing fight for a platform upon which he and his supporters could stand and won the fight by sheer force of brain and brawn. He arese from his bed on the early morning of the last day of the convention, though threatened with pneumonia, and just as the dawn was without it. It was expressly declared breaking over the city he delivered

in that convention to the vast throng

which had waited and sweated and

fretted all night long just to hear him

a speech which for pathos and power

lower ever heard equaled. The Demo-

cratic ticket, Judge Alton B. Parker

of New York and ex-Senator Henry G

Davis of West Virginia, was defeated

in November inexpressibly worse than

stands upon other Democratic Issues.

Despite all opposition, he has domi-

nated the national Democracy for

he has given expression to his views

in the weekly journal, the Commoner,

which he established at Lincoln. He

has removed to a fine farm near Lin-

coln, built a commodious residence and

become known throughout the world

titular successor to Henry Clay. He

has traveled around the world and

of American newspapers. He has been

for years the most popular and highest

paid lecturer on the American lyceum

and Chautauqua circuits. It is said

that his income from lecturing alone

is as much as \$50,000 a year, the presi-

dent's salary.

as the "great American commoner,"



NEW PICTURE OF MR. AND MRS. BRYAN.

in the platform, however, that imperialism was the paramount issue of the eampaign The Democracy opposed the forcible subjugation of the Filipinos and the control of the archipelago in the colonial style of the British empire. Mr. Bryan made another whirlwind campaign, even breaking his own record for traveling and speechmaking



full flush of magnificent manhood. the railroad, and it carried the candi During the four years since 1856 he had done much political speaking and upon an amazing schedule of traveling writing, he had lectured many times and talking. Mr. Bryan traveled in on other topics, he had traveled abroad that campaign more than 18,000 miles and studied other governments and and delivered considerably more than conditions of people; also he had be-2,000 speeches. He made forty-nine come Colonel Bryan, having gone to speeches in one day in New York camp during the Spanish war as colostate. Thirty-five addresses, short end | nel of a Nebresha regiment

older than the Bryan of 1896, but he is no less vigorous and virile than he was when his voice flashed across the continent from the Chicago convention hall

and civic. The Bryan of 1908 looks

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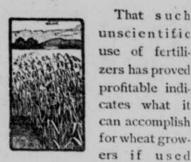
zers has proved

profitable indi-

cates what it

can accomplish

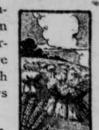
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Lv. Tazewell for Biuefield, 1:35 p m From Bluefield East Bound.

10.10 a m for Roanoke, Lynchburg, to Roanoke.Pullman sleeper Roanoke allography, and Preparators Veterito New York via Hagerstown. Parlor nary Medicine. and thrill no inveterate convention fol- car Roanoke and Norfolk.

8.00 a m daily for East Radford Rosnoke and intermediate stations. 2.55 p m daily for Roanoke, Lynchburg and intermediate stations and the Shenandoah Valley. Pullman sleeper Gary to Philadelphia via Hagerstown.

was Bryan in either of his campaigns 9.48 p m for Roanoke, Lynchburg, September 23rd, 1908. The discovery of vast deposits of Richmond, Norfolk. Pullman sleeper gold in Alaska and elsewhere since the to Roanoke and Roanoke, Richmond free silver campaigns has eliminated the money issue from politics. Mr and Norfolk. WESTBOUND. Bryan has accepted this fact and now

8.15 a m for Kenova, Portsmouth, Columbus, St. Louis and the west. Pullman sleeper to Columbus, Toledo twelve years. For several years past cafe car.

8.20 p m for Kenova, Portsmouth, cafe car to Williamson. 2.40 for Welch and intermediate

stations. Pullman Sleeper cafe cars Write for Rates, Maps, Time Table, Descriptive pamphlets to any station Agent, or to W. B. Bevil, General Passenger Agent, M. F. Bragg, Traveling written his impressions for a syndicate Passenger Agent, Roanoke, Va.

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